

Claims

- [c1] Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:
1. An illumination device for illuminating handheld remote control keypads comprising:
a housing assembly with a means for securing said housing assembly to said handheld remote control;
a light source disposed in said housing assembly with a means for controlling the operation of said light source;
an optical medium connected to said housing assembly, said optical medium having a near end, a length, and a far end, whereby said near end is positioned to capture light from said light source and said far end is positioned to illuminate said handheld remote control keypad; and
a guide for providing shape to said optical medium.
 - [c2] 2. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said optical medium has at least one curve, whereby said curve provides shape to said optical medium.
 - [c3] 3. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said optical medium is a plurality of optical fibers bundled together, wherein said bundle is round at said near end and round at said far end.

- [c4] 4. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said optical medium is a plurality of optical fibers bundled together, wherein said bundle is round at said near end and flat said far end.
- [c5] 5. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said optical medium is a single optical fiber, wherein optical fiber is round at said near end and round at said far end.
- [c6] 6. The illumination device of claim 5, wherein said single optical fiber is either rigid or flexible.
- [c7] 7. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said guide is a flexible wire shrink wrapped with said optical medium, whereby said flexible wire provides shape to said optical medium.
- [c8] 8. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said guide is a flexible sheath surrounding said optical medium, whereby said sheath provides shape to said optical medium.
- [c9] 9. The illumination device of claim 8, wherein said sheath is manufactured from metal or plastic.
- [c10] 10. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said guide is a curved channel attached to said handheld remote control, whereby said channel provides shape and

retention to said optical medium.

- [c11] 11. The illumination device of claim 10, wherein said curved channel includes a set of parallel grooves to guide an elastic band.
- [c12] 12. The illumination device of claim 10, wherein said curved channel pivots about a fixed base, wherein said fixed base is attached to said handheld remote control.
- [c13] 13. The illumination device of claim 12, wherein said fixed base includes a set of parallel grooves to guide an elastic band.
- [c14] 14. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said light source is at least an LED, whereby said LED is coaxial with said optical medium.
- [c15] 15. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said means for controlling the operation of said light source is by an electronic circuit contained within said housing assembly and connected to anode and cathode leads of said light source, said electronic circuit having a switch.
- [c16] 16. The illumination device of claim 15, wherein said electronic circuit includes:
a pair of identical 3 volt lithium coin cell batteries, said coin cell batteries axially spaced apart a distance which

is greater than the diameter of said coin cell batteries, to establish left and right coin cell batteries, said left and right coin cell batteries having a flat anode surface, a flat cathode surface, and a cylindrical cathode surface, said flat cathode surface and said flat anode surface of said left and right coin cell batteries oriented parallel in the same direction and spaced apart by a distance, whereby said parallel flat cathode and flat anode surfaces of said left and right coin cell batteries contact anode and cathode leads respectively of said LED; and a flexible metal conductive spring wire

- [c17] 17. The illumination device of claim 16, wherein said conductive spring wire contacts said flat anode surface of said left coin cell battery and said cylindrical cathode surface of said right coin cell battery, whereby illuminating the LED.
- [c18] 18. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said means for securing said housing assembly to said handheld remote control is double sided adhesive foam tape.
- [c19] 19. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said means for securing said housing assembly to said handheld remote control is hook and loop type fabric fasteners.

- [c20] 20. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said housing assembly features a parallel set of grooves for retaining a tensioned elastic band.
- [c21] 21. The illumination device of claim 20, wherein said parallel set of grooves is spaced apart a distance equal to about the distance between rows of keys on said handheld remote control keypad.
- [c22] 22. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said housing assembly features a tab for securing a looped and tensioned elastic band.
- [c23] 23. The illumination device of claim 1, wherein said means for securing said housing assembly to said handheld remote control is by looping an elastic band partially contained within said housing assembly around said handheld remote control.
- [c24] 24. The illumination device of claim 23, wherein said looped elastic band has a single 180° rotation thus creating a crossover point, whereby directing otherwise parallel members of said elastic band into a non-parallel configuration before and after said crossover point.